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Kennedy Role After Raid Is Criticized

Lyman B. Kirkpatrick Jr., who was inspector general of the CIA during the Bay of Pigs invasion, has criticized the late President John F. Kennedy for the way he handled the aftermath of the invasion.

"If the President makes the policy, get rid of Castro, that is about the last he should hear of it," Mr. Kirkpatrick said. "If something goes wrong, he can fire and disavow, which is what a President should do, not acknowledge and accept blame. Of course, I am being critical of the President, but I think that this is essential in this area (covert operations)."

According to Mr. Kirkpatrick, Allen Dulles, director of the CIA at the time, told the President "If you wish, I will go." The President refused.

Mr. Kirkpatrick said, "He (Mr. Dulles) was a very wise and able man, and he recognized that when an intelligence failure takes place, the first expendable person is the director of the operation."

In the forward to his book "A Thousand Days: John F. Kennedy in the White House," Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. writes:

"Then after the Bay of Pigs he (the President) said, 'I hope you kept a full account of that.' I said I had understood he did not want us to keep full accounts of anything. He said, 'No, go ahead. You can be damn sure that the CIA has its record and the Joint Chiefs of Staff theirs. We'd better make sure we have a record over here. So go ahead.'"

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